Vancouver metro

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ELLEN VANSTONE

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FORT MCMURRAY WILDFIRE

'THEY'RE GOING TO REBUILD'

- Evacuees cling to hope
- Firemen's wives band together
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Mark Stephenson, with the Fort McMurray Fire Department, stands amid rubble on Sunday. COURTESY CAPT. MATT COLLINS

Foreign buyers crushing home dreams

STUDY

Vancouverites being outbid by Chinese investors

The Canadian and B.C governments are complicit in fuelling Vancouver's housing crisis as foreign Chinese buyers continue to shut local residents out of the market, a new study says.

Josh Gordon, the study's author and assistant professor in the School of Public Policy at Simon Fraser University, said people whose dreams of owning a home are being crushed because they can't compete with foreign investors no longer accept "distraction" excuses such as low interest rates for the state of the super-heated market.

"People recognize what's going on, and they're willing to call a spade a spade," he said, stressing that such views are based on reality, not racism.

His report compiles a number of other studies, including data on home-buying trends, population density, the cancelled immigrant investor program, and American research on the same issue.

Gordon said his report blames Vancouver's housing crisis on foreign buyers, particularly from China, because "this is where the evidence points, not because of some anti-Chinese animus."

Chinese investors have also spiked home prices in the Toronto region, but Vancouver has seen the highest rise in real estate due to the influx of foreign money reaching an unprecedented level in the last year, he said.

Gordon noted that other countries, including Australia and Singapore, have created policies for foreign homebuyers to protect their own citizens but that hasn't happened in Canada.

The average sale price of a single-detached home in Metro Vancouver was $1.4 million in April, a 30 per cent increase from a year earlier, according to the Real Estate Board of Greater Vancouver.

The report, titled Vancouver's Housing Affordability Crisis: Causes, Consequences and Conclusions, says political inaction has allowed the problem to grow.

"By linking the crisis unambiguously to foreign ownership and investment, documenting the major harms of the affordability crisis, and proposing a policy route out of the current mess, the report hopes to harness the city's resentment and dispel its resignation."

Mobilized and informed residents can ideally hold political leaders accountable, the report says.

In March, Premier Christy Clark said the province will impose regulations to end "shady" contract flipping, which allows real estate agents to flip a property multiple times at higher prices before a deal closes as they continue making commissions while buyers avoid paying property taxes. THE CANADIAN PRESS

> People recognize what's going on, and they're willing to call a spade a spade. Josh Gordon

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metro NEWS
Your essential daily news
Monday, May 9, 2016

'This too shall pass'
In the first Sunday mass since the wildfire, a Fort McMurray priest offered these words of comfort to anyone whose faith has been shaken by the disaster.

An aerial photo of the Siphon Creek wildfire in British Columbia's Peace Region on May 1. COURTESY BC WILDFIRE SERVICE

B.C. wildfire crosses into Alberta

SIPHON CREEK

Local crews to take lead, not distract from Fort McMurray

Matt Kieltyka
Metro | Vancouver

British Columbia will send firefighters into Alberta to fight a wildfire that crossed the border over the weekend.

Premier Christy Clark previously stated the province doesn't have any firefighters to spare as Alberta crews try to contain the massive wildfire affecting Fort McMurray.

The province is dealing with its own wildfire challenges. The BC Wildfire Service says there were 49 fires burning in the Peace Region as of Saturday — 55 total in the Prince George Fire Centre area.

That's three times the amount normally seen this time of year, burning seven times the number of hectares, compared to the 10-year average.

"What they really need B.C. to do is make sure we are containing the fires within our own borders, so they don't jump the border," Clark said last week. "Alberta firefighters are working as hard as they possibly can, and we don't want to add to their burden."

> **We don't want to add to their burden.**
> Premier Christy Clark

However, the scenario Clark was hoping to avoid has come to pass. The 41,400-hectare Siphon Creek fire remains zero per cent contained and crossed into Alberta over the weekend, where it has already burned 11,775 hectares.

In a statement, the provincial government said B.C. will take the lead battling the blaze on both sides of the border to "allow Alberta's firefighting resources to be focused on Fort McMurray."

There are currently 81 firefighters, 12 helicopters and 12 pieces of heavy equipment battling the Peace Valley fire.

The province has pledged support for Alberta in several other ways.

Clark's government announced a $300,000 donation to the Canadian Red Cross on Friday to help the relief efforts in Fort McMurray. Another $73,000 has also been raised through donations at B.C. liquor stores.

The province has also offered, if required, health-care personnel, disaster support workers, a mobile medical unit and emergency management staff.

The Fort McMurray wildfire has seen the entire city of 80,000 people evacuated.

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Nurse fired after assuming patient's power of attorney

JACQUELINE ORINA

86-year-old woman was forced into care facility

Thandi Fletcher
Metro | Vancouver

British Columbia's College of Registered Nurses has barred the former director of a Vancouver care home from working as a registered nurse in this province after she gained power of attorney over an elderly patient and took her coin collection.

Jacqueline Orina also arranged to have the 86-year-old woman admitted to a long-term care facility even though she knew she did not want to go, completed a referral form incorrectly stating that she had dementia, and cleaned out the woman's apartment, taking her coin collection without her permission, according to a consent agreement reached between her and the college in March.

Reached at home Sunday, Orina declined to comment.

"I just want to move on," she told Metro. "I just want to forget everything."

According to her LinkedIn profile, Orina was director of care at the Royal Ascot Care Centre, an 82-bed long-term care facility on Vancouver's east side.

The consent agreement states that Orina was fired from her position as director of care at the facility in April 2014.

Orina became the subject of an investigation by the college in May 2014.

In a statement of facts confirmed to be true and correct by Orina, the college states that she met the elderly woman— identified as F in the document— in January 2013, shortly after her sister J became a long-term care resident at the facility.

The document states that Orina started encouraging F to become a long-term care resident there as well, despite her being "healthy and living independently in an apartment."

In January 2014, Orina used her position to have F admitted to the facility even though she knew she "did not want to go."

Orina also completed a referral form without F's consent, writing that the elderly woman had dementia "because she thought it would increase the likelihood of F being approved for subsidized long-term residential care."

A few days later, Orina recruited care aides from the facility to help clean out F's apartment without the patient's knowledge or consent.

Some of F's belongings were taken to the facility, but many items were given away, dumped or taken home by Orina, including the coin collection, according to the consent agreement.

On Jan. 14, 2014, F fell and broke her hip. She was taken to hospital and underwent surgery for a broken hip, before being transferred to another private-care facility to recover from the procedure.

In the months that followed, Orina continued to visit F at the facility and charged the expenses for her visits to F, even though she was no longer her resident.

In March 2014, Orina "induced and influenced" F to appoint her as power of attorney, which gave her complete control of the woman's person and finances, according to the agreement.

Orina also obtained credit and debit cards in her own name for F's accounts, withdrew cash and cancelled a $100,000 investment F made at another bank before transferring the proceeds to the elderly woman's bank account.

Soon after, however, a Vancouver Coastal Health manager contacted Royal Ascot's administrator to say that F could not return to the facility due to a conflict of interest having Orina as her power of attorney.

A workplace investigation was launched shortly after, during which Orina tried to persuade a co-worker to "secretly return the coin collection to the facility" and to "conceal that this has been done."

The co-worker, however, later became "increasingly uncomfortable due to her and Ms. Orina's dishonesty and eventually revealed the truth to the administrator."

The B.C. College of Registered Nurses has barred a Vancouver care home director from working as a registered nurse after she gained power of attorney over an 86-year-old patient and took the woman's coin collection. PASCAL LACHENAUD/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

DETAILS

In March this year, the college cancelled Orina's registration.

In addition to being barred from working as a registered nurse in B.C., Orina also cannot apply for reinstatement for a period of five years, the college states.

The cancellation of her registration will also remain permanently on the college's public register.

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OLYMPIC VILLAGE

Police officer allegedly attacked with butcher knife

A Vancouver police officer is recovering at home after allegedly being attacked with a butcher-type knife Saturday night in the Olympic Village area.

Const. Brian Montague, spokesman for Vancouver police, said the incident happened around 9:30 p.m. when the officer was dealing with an emotionally distraught woman outside her apartment on West 2nd Avenue.

"While talking to her out front of her apartment … she suddenly produced a butcher type knife from behind her back and started swinging," Montague told Metro. "The officer raised his arm in defense and the knife made contact with his hand."

Following the alleged attack, the woman went back inside her apartment and barricaded herself inside, said Montague.

After the injured officer was taken to hospital for treatment, more officers arrived on scene and attempted to negotiate with the woman, he said.

After several hours of negotiation, however, Montague said police lost contact with the woman.

Concerned for her safety, he said police broke down her door and entered her apartment.

She was arrested and taken to jail, he said.

Meanwhile, the injured officer has been released from hospital and is now recovering at home, said Montague.

THANDI FLETCHER/METRO

Mario Gutierrez celebrates after riding Nyquist to victory during the 142nd running of the Kentucky Derby horse race at Churchill Downs Saturday in Louisville, Ky. The Canadian jockey originally made a name for himself while racing at Vancouver's Hastings track. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Gutierrez wins the Kentucky Derby

HORSE RACING

Jockey's second win in two rides comes 4 years after first win

Mario Gutierrez is perfect in two Kentucky Derby rides. The time in between those races was far from it.

Four years after riding I'll Have Another to victory in the Run For The Roses, Gutierrez earned another Derby triumph by riding favourite Nyquist to a 1 1/four-length victory. Gutierrez's next step is winning a second Preakness in only his second try, two weeks from now in Baltimore. For the moment he's basking in this Derby win.

"One race at a time," said Gutierrez.

Nyquist challenged throughout the 1 1/four-mile race before Gutierrez seized his opportunity at the top of the stretch. The colt turned up the speed for a decisive win sure to spark discussion over whether Nyquist can follow American Pharoah as a Triple Crown champion.

Gutierrez, meanwhile, no longer has to question his value as a jockey.

His career levelled off after he rode I'll Have Another to wins in the 2012 Derby and Preakness before the colt was withdrawn from the Belmont Stakes with a career-ending tendon injury the day before the race.

Following that bitter disappointment, Gutierrez returned to Vancouver's Hastings Racecourse — where he was the top rider in 2007-08 — but struggled to find the winner's circle, prompting suggestions he simply got lucky with I'll Have Another.

"I never spoke it out loud but I always knew when I was at Hastings somehow I was going to make it back to the Kentucky Derby," Gutierrez told The Canadian Press ahead of the race, via telephone from Louisville, Ky.."Even when I was doubting myself, deep, deep inside I never stopped believing in myself.

"I give a lot of credit to my wife for my success the past two years . . . because of her I've invested more in myself now."

> **I believe I got the right people behind me, so they always give me confidence.** Mario Gutierrez

Gutierrez's wife, Rebecca, suggested he start seeing a sports psychologist. He also works with strength and stretching coaches.

Marriage, counselling and a certain horse have clearly provided answers and happiness for Gutierrez.

"I'm doing things I wasn't doing four years ago," said Gutierrez, who's expecting a child with Rebecca. "So, that makes me have a lot of confidence. I know that my surroundings always believe in me, so you get extra confidence.

"I believe I got the right people behind me, so they always give me confidence," he added.

Gutierrez has shown it with Nyquist, who's a perfect 8-0 — all with him aboard. Their chemistry was evident in last fall's Breeders' Cup Juvenile and last month's Florida Derby that established the colt as the Derby favourite. The relationship came full circle at Churchill Downs with a run that didn't shock trainer Doug O'Neill.

"He's got ice in his veins," he said of the jockey. "He's the one you want on the free throw line at the end of the game."

And although Gutierrez is back in racing's limelight, he cherishes his time at Hastings Racetrack.

"The support I get from the people in Vancouver is just amazing," he said. "Every time I get the opportunity to go back there, I always feel pressure because I want to win so bad for them.

"My wife comments I celebrate a stakes win at Hastings more than I do when I win here in the U.S." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS, WITH FILES FROM THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Northern Lights delight

ASTRONOMY

Stargazers treated to spectacle over Howe Sound

Thandi Fletcher
Metro | Vancouver

Some lucky stargazers were treated to a display of the northern lights over parts of British Columbia's South Coast on Saturday night.

John Buchanan of Squamish, B.C., says he noticed the spectacular show of colours, also known as aurora borealis, suspended over Howe Sound returning home from Vancouver late Saturday.

"I could see what looked like big spotlights across Howe Sound," he told Metro. "I thought maybe there was some kind of crazy movie set going on, but it went on."

By the time Buchanan reached Britannia Beach, he said the lights had grown in size and he decided to pull over and snap some photos using his low-light underwater camera.

He said the stunning display, which lasted about 20 minutes, took his breath away.

"It was like a Milky Way galaxy stream from one side of the sky all the way over top and disappearing on the other side," he said. "It was just incredibly huge."

Not sure at first what he was looking at, Buchanan said he went home and Googled pictures of the northern lights, confirming that the colours were definitely the aurora borealis.

"I've lived in Squamish for 50 years," he said. "I know this area better than anybody and I've never seen this before here."

The northern lights were also seen in Porteau Cove, according to a Reddit post, and reportedly as far south as Seattle and Puget Sound.

Derek Kief, an astronomer at the H.R. MacMillan Space Centre, confirmed that the photos Buchanan took are most likely aurora borealis.

> **"I could see what looked like big spotlights ...**
> John Buchanan, Squamish, B.C.

"The reds and greens are kind of the standard colours, and then you get some purples in there as well," he said.

Those who were able to see the colourful phenomenon are very lucky, said Kief, given that aurora borealis is typically only visible in this part of B.C. about once or twice a year depending on the sun's activity and viewing conditions.

"I'm jealous," he said with a laugh. "Auroras are one of the things that we see occasionally and they're quick, fleeting and usually only a couple of people will see them.

"If you get a picture like that, it's really awesome."

John Buchanan of Squamish, B.C., took a photo of the northern lights over Howe Sound Saturday. The lights were seen as far south as Seattle. COURTESY JOHN BUCHANAN

NORTHERN GATEWAY PIPELINE

Enbridge asks for more time

Enbridge and its partners behind the Northern Gateway pipeline are asking for three more years to build support for the controversial project, but some First Nations say their opposition will never waver.

The company's Northern Gateway subsidiary and 31 aboriginal equity partners said Friday they've asked the National Energy Board for an extension to the 2016 construction deadline to secure legal and regulatory certainty as well as continue consultations.

Northern Gateway president John Carruthers said the company had made mistakes and is committed to creating stronger partnerships with communities along the proposed route.

"From the beginning, Northern Gateway should have done a better job of building relationships with First Nations and Métis communities," Carruthers said in a statement Friday.

"We are making progress and remain open to further changes. We believe this is the right course of action for Northern Gateway and the right thing to do as Canadians. We know this process requires time and we are committed to getting it right."

Currently, Enbridge is required to start construction by the end of this year as one of the 209 conditions attached to the 2014 federal approval of the project.

National Energy Board spokeswoman Sarah Kiley said there is no set process for reviewing an extension application. But when the Mackenzie Gas pipeline proponents requested one last August, the board asked for public comments in an ongoing process expected to take about a year.

Final approval of any extension would have to be approved by federal cabinet, Kiley said.

A spokesman for Natural Resources Minister Jim Carr said the federal government is committed to regaining public trust with credible regulatory reviews. Alexandre Deslongchamps said the government encourages proponents of major resource projects to consult and engage indigenous peoples throughout the application process.

So far Northern Gateway has the support of the 18 First Nations and Métis communities in Alberta and 13 in British Columbia that form the aboriginal equity partners, five of which signed on in the past two years.

But the pipeline has faced stiff opposition from other First Nations groups and others who have voiced environmental concerns

The Gitga'at First Nation and Coastal First Nations won a court challenge in January when the British Columbia Supreme Court ruled that the province must conduct its own consultations with the Gitga'at and issue a separate environmental certificate from the federal one already issued. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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PROGRESS

Car station charges up

Matt Kieltyka
Metro | Vancouver

Vancouver now has a public electric vehicle charging station that is up to 10 times faster than the chargers drivers use at home.

Representatives from municipal, provincial and federal levels of government, along with BMW, launched the city's first-ever DC fast charge station on Friday.

The charger, located at Empire Fields on East Hastings Street, is able to charge a vehicle's battery to 80 per cent in 20 minutes.

That's eight to 10 times faster that home charging systems, according to the city's statement.

The station is one of 23 fast charging sites throughout British Columbia (the province plans to install seven more) and adds to the estimated 250 existing charging points in Vancouver.

The city says the Empire Fields location, just off the TransCanada Highway, lets local electric vehicle drivers make longer journeys, connect to other municipalities and provides an essential link for adventurous EV drivers who tour around in their cars.

Mayor Gregor Robertson said expanding the city's charging network helps fight climate change and helps the city achieve its long-term goal of phasing out fossil fuels and switching to 100 per cent renewable energy.

The DC fast charging station is free and open to the public 24 hours a day.

IN BRIEF

Fine given to woman trafficking bear organs

A Burnaby woman has been fined $5,200 after illegally buying bear gallbladders in an attempt to treat her severely ill son's seizures.

Yon Kim was sentenced on Tuesday for two counts of trafficking in bear gallbladders under the B.C. Wildlife Act in Port Coquitlam provincial court.

Det. Sgt. Darcy MacPhee of the B.C. Conservation Officer Service said Kim held a traditional belief that the bile contained in the gallbladders would help her adult son's condition.

"He suffered pretty much constant seizures," MacPhee said in an interview. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Muses explored in Picasso exhibit

CULTURE

Vancouver Art Gallery sheds light on artist's relationships

Tereza Verenca
For Metro | Vancouver

The Vancouver Art Gallery explores Picasso, his lovers and his muses in an exhibit that opens next month.

Picasso: The Artist and His Muses opens June 11. It follows the career of Spaniard Pablo Picasso, who was famous for his paintings, sculptures, pottery and prints during the 1900s, and who was regarded as one of the masters of Modernism.

The Vancouver Art Gallery exhibit — which examines the lives and personalities of Picasso's lovers and mothers to his children, Fernande Olivier, Olga Khokhlova, Marie-Thérèse Walter, Dora Maar, Françoise Gilot and Jacqueline Roque — starts in early 20th-century Paris.

"The journey is really looking at Picasso in his relationships, but also how those relationships transformed his artistic practice," senior curator Ian Thom told Metro.

"Someone like Fernande Olivier sort of sees him through the end of the Rose Period and the beginnings of Cubism, Olga Khokhlova introduces this idea of classism that appears in his work and Dora Maar introduces him to ideas of surrealism.

"Marie-Thérèse Walter, in contrast, was a person remarkably different in terms of how she looked and how she expressed herself in the world, and that led to this extraordinary efflorescence of making sculpture and these very rich, erotic works in the early 1930s because she was much younger than he was. She was 17 and he was 52," Thom explained.

Gilot, meanwhile, is characterized in Picasso's work as the "woman of flowers."

"You often see her in floral motifs and flowers in her hair," noted the curator.

In his later years, Picasso met Roque while he working on pottery in the south of France. Thom described her as Picasso's "greatest and fiercest defender." That's because during that time, he had become the most famous artist in the world, he said.

"People were constantly wanting to get a hold of him and get him to do things, and she became like the gatekeeper."

Gallery-goers can expect all kinds of mediums from the world-renowned artist, including paintings, drawings and three bronze sculptures.

The exhibits runs from June 11 to Oct. 2.

Pablo Picasso's Femme couchée lisant, 1939, oil on canvas. CONTRIBUTED

> **"Olga Khokhlova introduces this idea of classism that appears in (Picasso's) work and Dora Maar introduces him to ideas of surrealism.**
> Ian Thom

ANIMAL WELFARE

BC SPCA says interest is growing for humane food

Matt Kieltyka
Metro | Vancouver

The BC SPCA is trying to drum up support for its made-in-Canada animal welfare certification program for restaurants and grocers.

The Vancouver-based Earls restaurant chain made headlines last month by switching from Alberta beef to a single Kansas supplier of U.S. Certified Humane meat (raised without the use of antibiotics, steroids or added hormones) because there wasn't enough supply in Alberta to meet demand.

After outrage from Canadian producers, Earls reversed its decision and agreed to serve both Canadian and U.S. certified meat on its menus.

In light of the controversy, the BC SPCA is promoting its own SPCA Certified food-labelling program, which launched in 2002 and certifies approximately 20 farms that supply meat to businesses including White Spot, Real Canadian Superstore and Save-On Foods.

Program manager Brandy Street said its certified farms (which are evaluated and regularly audited by third-party experts) include large-scale producers and said the program adheres to federal Canadian Codes of Practice, which make it a viable alternative to the U.S. Certified Humane program.

"The nice thing is that it follows Canadian standards," Street told Metro. "U.S. Certified uses American rules and regulations that are different from ours."

Although there can be a lot of confusion about ethical food labelling for consumers, Street said the public clearly has an appetite for humane products.

"People want to know what their options are," said Street.

While the average consumer may not know everything that goes into something being certified humane, they are reassured when independent agencies do their due diligence.

When people see the SPCA Certified logo, shoppers "know if the farm is meeting the standards we require for animal welfare," Street said.

IN BRIEF

Vancouver supports Little Italy designation

Vancouver city staff will support designating part of Commercial Drive as Little Italy.

In a press release issued Friday, the city said it will work with the Commercial Drive Business Improvement Association to mark the area's historic Italian heritage along an eight block section between Charles Street and E. 4th Avenue.

City council asked staff to consult the community about the designation April 6. An online survey hosted by the city found 68 per cent of respondents supported the Little Italy designation. Consultations with the community will continue to make the designation a reality, the city says.

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City will rebound: Residents

REBUILDING

But economists say boomtown revival hopes are misplaced

Tim Querengesser
Metro | Edmonton

Newfoundlander Debra Smith has little choice but to continue believing in the boomtown nature of Fort McMurray, though others warn her optimism could be misplaced.

"I've heard some people say they're not going to go back," Smith said, after leaving the city for Edmonton recently. "I think it's the minority. Because everybody is coming back and they're going to rebuild."

People from Canada's economically depressed regions, the Maritimes in particular, have for more than a decade turned to Fort McMurray as a city where good-paying jobs are there for those willing to move.

But as the city reels from a wildfire that has displaced 90,000 and cut oil production by an estimated one million barrels per day — economic pain amplified by the price of oil falling by more than half over the past year, with 100,000 people losing their jobs in Alberta alone — two very different views of Fort McMurray's economic future are emerging.

For Smith, from small-town Newfoundland where job prospects are scarce, Fort McMurray simply has to rebound.

"It'll have to be a boomtown again because you need all those people to come back to help rebuild everything — put everything back the way it was or even better than it was," she said.

"Give it a year or two and it'll be back bigger than ever ... because, people are not giving up. This is where our home is. It's not going to die, it's not going to go away, it can't. We're just waiting for the word to go back."

But some economists warn what may look like a boom as the city rebuilds may not heal the fire's deeper economic blow. Jennifer Winter, director of energy and environmental policy at the University of Calgary's School of Public Policy, said on balance, the fire has damaged an already struggling city.

"The issue is that — technically yes [there will be a boom] — but it would be much better for Alberta's provincial economy if the fire hadn't happened at all," Winter said. "And so, yes, there will be a bump in activity as there's rebuilding, but it's not going to compensate for the lost economic activity as a result of the fire."

Smith said government money that was set to be used for other goals will now be focused solely on rebuilding McMurray — leading to a short-term bump but a longer-term hole in other services.

"The only real long term economic impact would be increased taxes with the government response to the fires, increase insurance premiums because of the large payouts and maybe a little bit of a change in Fort McMurray itself," she said.

A giant fireball erupts as a wildfire rips through the forest 16 kilometres south of Fort McMurray on Highway 63 on Saturday.
JONATHAN HAYWARD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

> "Give it a year or two and it'll be back bigger than ever ... It's not going to die, it's not going to go away, it can't. Debra Smith

EVACUEES

Mother's Day not forgotten

Ryan Tumilty
Metro | Edmonton

At the Northlands Expo Centre Sunday it seemed as though every second woman was carrying a fresh cut flower.

At the convention facility, which has been swiftly turned into a village for Fort McMurray evacuees, no one wanted to forget Mother's Day. And so volunteers brought the cut flowers to any mom who wanted them.

Thousands of people have come to the centre looking for some level of help over the course of the last week, with close to 2,000 people sleeping in the facility's giant halls at the peak, but that number is down to 600.

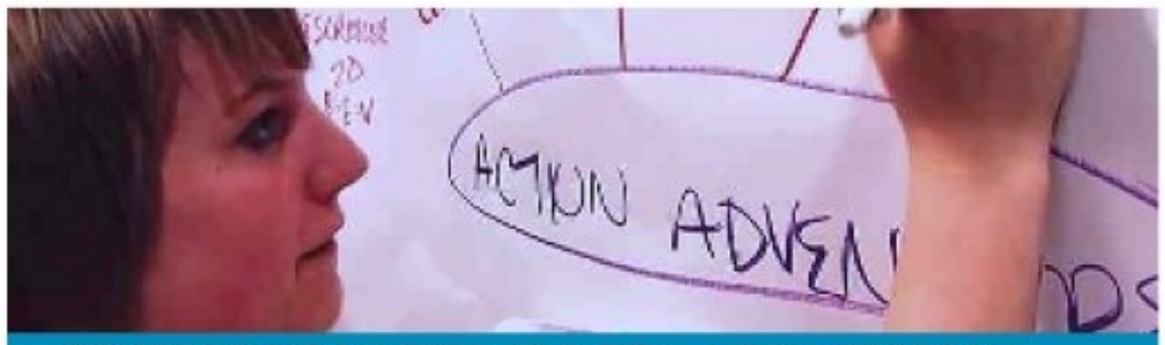
Mayor Don Iveson said the city will operate the centre for as long as is needed, but he is glad people are finding more permanent housing. "We are seeing people who have found apartments in the rental market or spots in a hotel."

Vincent Couse and his stepdaughter Angelina Drake, are staying with friends, but like many evacuees came to the centre for help with prescriptions and to register for aid.

He said the support has been overwhelming.

Drake said all of the small items, strangers buying coffee or meals for evacuees and items like that really make people feel supported.

"It is the little things that people are doing that really hit you," she said.



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INTERNATIONAL RESPONSE

No response to Russian offer

The Trudeau government has yet to respond to an offer by Russia late last week to dispatch massive water bombers and firefighting specialists to battle the growing inferno around Fort McMurray.

A spokesman for Russia's embassy in Ottawa, Kirill Kalinin, said Sunday that they continue to stand "ready to help our Canadian partners to fight the ongoing wildfires in Alberta."

The offer involves sending converted Ilyushin Il-76 transport planes — the kind occasionally leased by the Canadian military — that can dump as much as "42 tons of fire retardant into fire spots," according to a statement on the website of Russia's Civil Defence, Emergencies and Elimination of Consequences of Natural Disasters.

In addition, Moscow said it has "rescuers and specialists with necessary equipment" ready to help on the ground, if need be.

There has been a diplomatic chill between Canada and Russia since Moscow's annexation of Crimea in the spring of 2014, but since the election the Liberal government has said it wanted a constructive relationship with President Vladimir Putin's government.

Speaking on CTV's Question Period on Sunday, Public Safety Minister Ralph Goodale said the fire continues to grow. But he made no mention of the Russian overture — or any other potential pitch of international assistance.

"It's big. It's out of control, and the end is not in sight," Goodale said.

The Department of Global Affairs was asked about the Kremlin's offer, but no one was available to comment.

Canadian officials did tell Russian media that the proposal was being studied.

Goodale was also not prepared Sunday to call out the army to join the over 600 firefighters from Alberta, Ontario, Quebec, Manitoba and New Brunswick who have been part of the effort to contain the blaze, the origins of which remain a mystery.

Troops were deployed last year to help contain a massive woodland blaze in Saskatchewan, but Goodale said Sunday it was best to leave the current disaster to full-time firefighters.

"This is a beast of a fire and it needs the most professional fighters to contend with it," he said. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Partners of Fort McMurray firefighters band together

COMMUNITY

Families create playdates, give support, and stay in touch

Jeremy Simes
For Metro | Calgary

It wasn't exactly the perfect first Mother's Day for Megan Langpap, as her husband, Hunter, continues to fight the inferno that's ravaged Fort McMurray and surrounding areas.

Megan is among a group of wives who haven't seen their firefighting husbands since they left to battle a ferocious blaze that's bigger than both Calgary and Edmonton.

"He's been giving 'er around the clock since he's gotten there," said Megan, who's been staying with her sister in Edmonton.

"They're exhausted, but they're fighting for their city, so I think that's what's keeping them focused.

"The love from their wives is non-stop — we're thinking about them around the clock."

To keep spirits alive, Megan said firefighters' wives have created a group to set up things like playdates, share school registration information and offer places to stay.

"I think being a wife of someone in the fire department, you can just relate," she said.

"We've all banded together, helping each other with everything we may need because we've had to move our lives down south."

Megan Langpap, centre, her husband Hunter and son Cullen. Langpap hasn't seen her husband since he left to fight the wildfire in the Fort McMurray area. CONTRIBUTED

For Megan, all she needs is an "AG," or "all good," from Hunter to keep her at ease.

"I literally have a string of 'AGs' in my text message feed," she said with a laugh. "If we get to talk to him, it's a good day.

"I miss him, but I also know in my heart he needs to be there."

> They're exhausted, but they're fighting for their city, so I think that's what's keeping them focused.
> Megan Langpap

It's almost like firefighters have an innate quality to respond to wildfires, she added.

"If he was with us, he wouldn't be resting easy — he needs to be there," she said. "I think all those firefighters feel this need to go and protect and save."

She said the family anticipates to celebrate Mother's Day at a later date, when Hunter returns.

"All I need right now is my son in my arms, and I have him," she said.

"We're safe and my husband is safe. The support we're getting right now is just carrying us."

The family intends to refurbish the home when it's safe to return, Megan said, adding she's currently looking at rental options.

"We need a place so that when my husband has his days off he can see my son," she said.

"He's growing so fast and changing. I don't want him to miss out, and neither does he."

NORQUEST COLLEGE

Graduates ready to battle fire

Kevin Maimann
Metro | Edmonton

A crew of new firefighters is going straight from an Edmonton, Alta. classroom to the Fort McMurray wildfire.

Sixteen students who graduated Norquest College's Fire and Safety Training program Friday are on standby to battle the blaze that has claimed at least 1,600 structures and caused mass evacuations.

"I'm anxious to get out there," said graduate Lorin Anderson.

Anderson grew up in Wabasca-Desmarais, part of the Bigstone Cree Nation, and had his house go up in flames when he was a teenager after a volunteer fire crew responded to the blaze.

Ever since then, he's wanted to fight fires.

"When I was 17 my house burned down. The first fire truck that showed up had no water. The second one, they didn't know how to hook it up. I was shocked," he said.

"They were so incompetent, I thought when I get older I was going to get something going where I would (outdo) these guys."

Lorin Anderson received firetack training, which will allow him to do dangerous frontline work near oil company sites.

The area that is burning is close to Anderson's heart as someone who worked in the oil patch and still has family in Saddle Lake and Fort McKay.

"I was in contact with my family in McKay and I was constantly texting them, making sure they're OK. My auntie had taken in 30 people in her house last night, it was packed," he said. His aunt told him that many of the people she took in were out of food and fuel.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Twitter confirms destruction of Fort McMurray family's home

One tweet managed to stifle a rumour that Meranda Bos hoped wasn't true.

Bos is among few in Fort McMurray who actually know their homes have been destroyed, as residents haven't been able to enter the city after a ravenous blaze tarnished many neighbourhoods on Tuesday.

"I had heard rumours that our house was gone," she recalled, while staying with her parents in New Brunswick to attend the funeral of her husband's father. "But you always try and go, 'Okay, we don't for sure.'"

That all changed when she received a text from her neighbour while on her way to Edmonton.

Within the message was a link to a tweet that showcased the rubble that was left in the neighbourhood of Wood Buffalo.

"After I saw that, I said to my husband, 'Adam, our house is gone,'" Bos said.

"We had prepared a little bit, but we were so focused on the funeral that we didn't think too much about it."

> After I saw that, I said to my husband, 'Adam, our house is gone'. Meranda Bos

According to the latest damage assessment by local officials, 1,600 structures in town have been lost, where 80 percent of homes in the community of Beacon Hill were destroyed. Severe loss was also reported in Abasand and Waterways, and some damage had occurred in Wood Buffalo.

To make light of the situation, Bos joked to her husband that they no longer need to repaint the dreadful yellow walls.

"It's like this running joke: 'Oh, you get to pick your paint colours now,'" she chuckled.

"You have to do those things to just get through it because, if you don't, I think you're going to go crazy."

JEREMY SIMES/FOR METRO

The Bos family lost their home after wildfires in Fort McMurray consumed some of their neighbourhood. From left: Oddie the dog, Adam, Meranda, Jase and Kirsten. CONTRIBUTED

Alberta premier to survey fire devastation first-hand

GOVERNMENT

Notley chokes up in briefing ahead of visit to ravaged city

Wildfires that levelled neighbourhoods in Fort McMurray slowed their rampage through tinder-dry forest in northern Alberta on Sunday, allowing firefighters in the oilpatch city to focus on hot spots as plans were made for Premier Rachel Notley to survey the damage first-hand.

Notley said the fight against the fire has stabilized to the point that she can visit and begin the next phase of the government's operation to determine what must be done to eventually allow people to return to the city.

Speaking at a media briefing, Notley had to pause to compose herself when she spoke about Mother's Day and two evacuees who were killed in a traffic accident last week.

"Our hearts go out to their families. This is Mother's Day. I am hoping, in all of this crisis, to spend a few minutes today with my own children," Notley said, pausing as her voice cracked. "That not all of us can do that is definitely an awful tragedy. So today, Mother's Day, all of us in Alberta are thinking of you who have suffered these losses."

Emily Ryan, 15, and her stepmother's nephew, Aaron Hodgson, died in the accident a day after the fire drove 80,000 people from the city.

Notley was scheduled to visit Fort McMurray on Monday. The premier warned residents to brace themselves for the images they will see, reminding them that counselling services are available.

Members of the RCMP inspect burnt-out homes in Fort McMurray, Alta., on Saturday. ALBERTA RCMP/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

"There will be some dramatic images coming from media over the next couple of days," she said.

Chad Morrison with Alberta Wildfire said firefighters have managed to hold the line against the fire better in Fort McMurray.

The weather was changing and below-seasonal temperatures will help firefighters who have been battling the blaze since May 1, he said.

The wildfire did not grow to the size that was expected on Saturday, Morrison said. It covered an area of about 1,600 square kilometres on Sunday and was 30 to 40 kilometres from the Saskatchewan-Alberta boundary.

> **There will be some dramatic images coming from media over the next couple of days.** Premier Rachel Notley

For the first time since the evacuation began, Morrison expressed a note of optimism in the battle.

"For us, this is great firefighting weather. We can really get in there and really get a handle on this fire and really get a death grip on it," he said.

"For the wildfire stuff, out in the forested area, that's going to take us a long time to clean up. But I feel very buoyed and happy that we are making great progress, especially in the community."

All the evacuees who fled Fort McMurray to the north of the city were successfully transported to communities south of the blaze by Sunday morning.

Notley said none of the thousands of people who made their way out of Fort McMurray to oilsands work camps were left in that area. In addition to using airplanes, the government began moving people out of the work camps by road on Friday along Highway 63, the only route through the city.

Notley was also scheduled to meet leaders from the province's oil industry on Tuesday to discuss the state of their operations and a timeline for restarting them.

Syncrude and Suncor facilities north of Fort McMurray were evacuated but Morrison said the fire did not reach them.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

RESCUE EFFORT

Pets and owners to reunite

Furry friends who've been displaced by the ravaging fires in Fort McMurray have received a little love from Calgary SPCAs.

The animal rescue effort in Fort McMurray has begun to take form, after more than 230 pets were rescued from homes on Wednesday and Thursday. Plus, local officials with the Rural Municipality of Wood Buffalo continue to find makeshift shelters for the displaced critters.

Crystal Wheeler's two pooches each received a toy, blanket and crate — to fly them out to family in Corner Brook, N.L. — from the Calgary Humane Society on Friday. "Thank you soooooo much!!" Wheeler posted on Facebook. "I can not put into words how touched I am by all the kindness."

Many canines and cats have also arrived in Calgary over the weekend, after they took a flight to stay at a shelter with the Alberta Animal Rescue Crew Society (AARCS).

Lyndsay Black, resource development and communications co-ordinator with AARCS, said the animals are a bit stressed. "They've been through so much."

She said AARCS has been posting to its Facebook page so owners can hopefully spot their fur babies to reunite.

WITH FILES FROM THE CANADIAN PRESS

This pup is in Calgary and waiting for a call from its owner. COURTESY AARCS

PREPARATION

No 'imminent threat' to Sask.

Jeremy Simes
For Metro | Calgary

Though the Saskatchewan government doesn't anticipate an "imminent threat" from the growing Fort McMurray wildfires, it has set up mechanisms to fight the blaze if it enters the province.

On Saturday, Alberta officials said the inferno that's burned parts of Fort McMurray was headed toward the Saskatchewan border. On Sunday, Steve Roberts, executive director of wildfire management with the Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment, said the government isn't yet worried about the blaze affecting local communities, as they're about 60 kilometres from the current wildfire.

However, he said Saskatchewan has begun to implement sprinkler units and other equipment on the border, in case flames encroach. Saskatchewan staff have flown into Alberta to assess the current fire to better understand where it's heading, he said. He couldn't say when Saskatchewan should expect the fire to cross over, as its activity depends on weather patterns.

"We have the latitude to engage the fire on the Alberta side," he said. "We do not have to wait (to fight the blaze) until it comes into Saskatchewan." Northern Saskatchewan towns will also see much smoke, depending on wind patterns, he added.

Last year, Saskatchewan battled raging forest fires in the northern part of the province.

If Alberta's fires are to spread north and into already-burnt areas, Roberts said the singed forests will act as a deterrent to the flames as there will be no dry vegetation — or fuel — to aid in its growth.

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CHILE 'RED TIDE' HITS SEVEN CITIES A dead sea lion lies on the shore, as a truck belonging to the Center for Studies and Conservation of Cultural Heritage NGO drives by at Mar Brava beach in Chiloe Island, Chile, on Sunday. A poisonous algae bloom known as red tide has affected seven major cities and dozens of fishing towns, including Chiloe. Experts say it's linked to high temperatures stemming from the El Nino weather pattern. ESTEBAN FELIX/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Drug boss sent to Mexico's worst jail

EL CHAPO

Prison located in territory controlled by Sinaloa cartel

The northern Mexico prison where authorities suddenly transferred convicted drug lord Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman is rated as the worst in the federal penitentiary system for inmate conditions and other factors, according to the government's own reporting.

The Cefereso No. 9 facility on the outskirts of Ciudad Juarez, which borders El Paso, Texas, did score well on "conditions of governability," perhaps an indication that authorities believe they can limit the risk of Guzman pulling off a third brazen jailbreak.

But Michael Vigil, the former head of international operations for the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, questioned the logic of sending Guzman to a less-secure prison that's in territory firmly controlled by El Chapo's Sinaloa cartel after it emerged victorious from a war with the Juarez cartel in recent years.

"It just doesn't make any sense," Vigil said Sunday. "He has that part of his empire, he has the infrastructure there and he has people who would assist him in terms of engineering him another escape."

A 2015 report by the governmental National Human Rights Commission gave the Juarez prison an overall 6.63 rating on a scale of 0 to 10, the lowest for any of Mexico's 21 federal prisons. By comparison, the maximum-security Altiplano facility near Mexico City where Guzman was confined before was 10th best with a rating of 7.32.

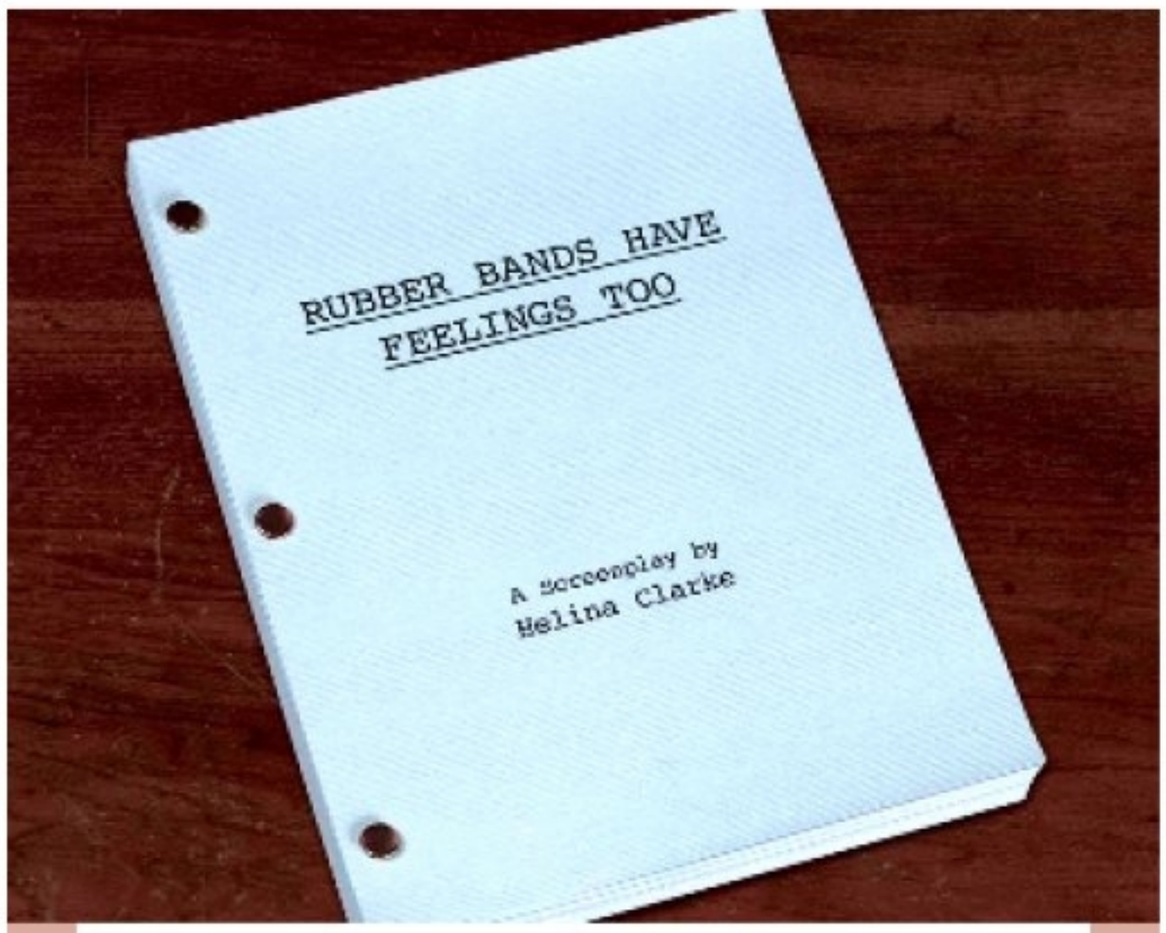
Altiplano is considered the country's highest-security prison, and many had thought it to be inescapable. That belief was shattered in July 2015 when Guzman fled the facility through a sophisticated, mile-long tunnel that accomplices dug to the shower in his cell, complete with a motorcycle modified to run on rails laid down in the passage.

Cefereso No. 9 is located just off the Pan-American highway about 23 kilometres south of downtown Juarez, in the middle of the barren, scorching Chihuahuan Desert.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

+ ESCAPES

Most-wanted fugitive
Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman first broke out of a Mexican prison in 2001 and spent more than a decade on the run as one of the world's most-wanted fugitives. He was recaptured in 2014, only to escape the following year. Mexican marines re-arrested him in the western state of Sinaloa in January, after he fled a safe house through a storm drain.



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A gasoline bomb explodes in front of police in Athens on Sunday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

GREECE

Clashes erupt ahead of key vote

Greek anarchists hurled firebombs, chairs and wooden planks at riot police in brief clashes outside parliament while lawmakers were debating a controversial austerity bill, disrupting a much larger peaceful rally on Sunday.

Police responded with stun grenades and bursts of tear gas to disperse the anarchists, who were split into two groups — one of them mixed among a peaceful protest of about 10,000 people holding banners and the other inside Syntagma Square in front of parliament.

The bill, introduced as part of requirements debt-ridden Greece must meet under its third international bailout, is set to dramatically increase social security and pension contributions and raise taxes for most people. Greek workers say the increases will decimate their incomes, already hurt by six years of crippling austerity, and have staged a series of strikes.

The larger protest on Sunday was called for by Greece's biggest unions and most of those in attendance were Communist party sympathizers. About 45 minutes before they started throwing projectiles, anarchists approached and beat up a known farmer activist.

A few minutes later, another group of anarchists set upon another person, with riot police using stun grenades to stop the beating.

There were also clashes in Thessaloniki, when anarchists broke away from a protest march to hurl firebombs at police guarding the local offices of the ruling Syriza party. Police used tear gas and chased the rioters through the streets in central Thessaloniki.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

metro VIEWS
Your essential daily news
Monday, May 9, 2016

URBAN ETIQUETTE ELLEN VANSTONE

THE QUESTION

Could you provide some kind of guide to public ogling?

Dear Ellen,
I'm wondering if you can provide some kind of guide to ogling (is that even how you spell it?).
L.

Dear L.,

You'll see that I moved the list of questions in your letter down into my answer (below) so I could easily address them one by one. But before we begin, the fact you can barely spell "ogling" makes me wonder if you are defining it correctly.

"Ogling" (which, btw, is pronounced OH-gling, not AWG-ling) connotes leering or blatantly checking out someone's body. This I do not condone. Unless you are a sex worker or Miley Cyrus, you don't want to go out in public and have some gross, horny stranger staring at you with their tongue hanging out, blatantly undressing you with their eyes, or making any other gesture pertaining to a desire to see you naked.

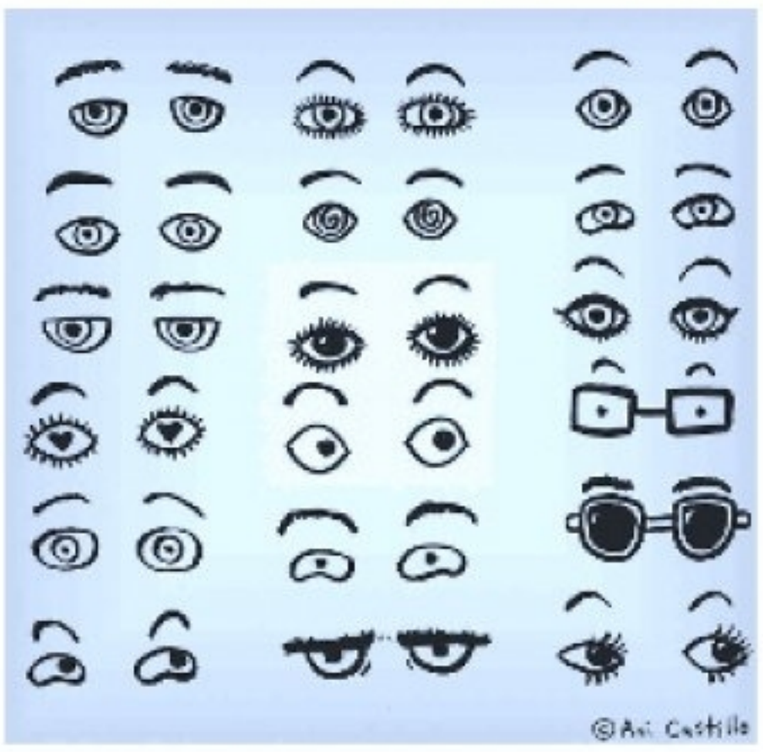
However, dear L., if what you really mean is "looking" — well, that's another matter. It's normal to look. Whether we want to or not, whether we're even conscious of it or not, our animal brains contain an ancient, uncontrollable limbic system that is constantly ordering our eyeballs to check out potential mates.

The trick for any civilized person is to know how and when to look, which brings us to your excellent questions.

Is it best to just avoid all eye contact with strangers?

It depends. Sometimes firm eye contact along with a smile is required, as when stepping around an elderly person on a sidewalk, or accepting change from a cashier. Other times, eye contact should be avoided at all costs, like when the person on the sidewalk is holding a clipboard and wants to ask about your personal beliefs. Or the sidewalk is a dark alley and the stranger is shouting lewd comments at you.

Our animal brains contain an ancient, uncontrollable system constantly ordering our eyeballs to check out potential mates.



Then there's the limbic-brain situation, which requires more finesse. If you notice an attractive-to-you stranger, it's perfectly acceptable to flick a nano-second of pupil dilation at them. Believe me, if they find you attractive, they won't miss it. And even if they don't find you attractive, many civilized human beings don't mind being noticed on the street by appreciative, respectful strangers who know how to nano-look, perhaps even offer a courtly nod, and then keep walking — women of a certain age adore visiting Paris for this very reason. Like I said, finesse is required.

Should I avoid eye contact with strangers who are way better looking than me?

Absolutely not! First of all, "way better looking" is in the eye of the beholder. Secondly, it's not just looks that make a person attractive. Grooming, style, self-confidence, a lust for life — these are all attributes that make anyone worth a look.

What about making eye contact in the reflection of a bus or subway window?

The same rules apply. Don't ogle, and desist if the attention is registered but not reciprocated. Furthermore, if any of you readers start a romantic relationship in this unbearably romantic way, I must insist you contact me so I can share your story with the entire Metro audience.

Where is the line between friendly smile and over-friendly smile?

Please see paragraphs above referring to "tongue hanging out" and "finesse."

What about staring at a beautiful human who is driving and ignoring you and perhaps even endangering your life while you are riding alongside them on your bike?

No amount of looking is worth dying for. Pull over, and pull yourself together.

Is it wrong to look at beautiful people when you are happily married with kids and should be texting about the parent-teacher interview and investing in RRSPs instead?

As long as you aren't criminally neglecting your children or miscalculating your contributions, and you really are just looking, this is probably when you should be looking the most.

Has the internet affected what's reasonable in this domain?

I'd have to see your search history in order to answer this question properly. And truth be told, I'm not sure I'm being paid enough to undertake that kind of research.

Is Canadian winter a consideration here?

A good Canadian, new or old, will develop looking powers that see, and appreciate, beyond Cougars boots, Garbage mitts and Canada Gooses. But now that spring is breaking, and the streets are full of moulting Canucks, I'd say we're all happy to see more of everybody.

Need advice?
Email Ellen:
scene@metronews.ca

ROSEMARY WESTWOOD

metroview

Handwriting: A way to be near a loved one who is far away

Not everyone will have spent yesterday with their mother.

Some mothers have died, some are estranged, and some mothers (mine) live far away.

But there are ways to be near a person who is not here — among them, their handwriting.

Handwriting is a physical mark that a person exists, or existed. They were here, moments or hours or weeks ago, leaning over this paper, with a pen that has lent this ink — giving a little something of themselves away.

In what they said, but more magical to those who love them, in how they wrote it.

Mum's hand is looping and full and warm, spreading over the page, soft and round like dough rising.

Dad's is compact and slanted, more elegant, exact, and careful (he is a man who has always measured twice).

My fiancé, a non-traditional type, writes in a hand unburdened by structure, rough and staccato, more utilitarian, less self-conscious.

I can also see both my brothers' scripts, and my sister's. All handwriting is as recognizable as a voice or a gait, but it has something extra, and special — a physical tie to the person. It was made by them, and it goes on to exist, and it can be folded up and kept in a wallet. Even after the bent edges tear, you can still pull it out and piece it together and hold both the thoughts and marking of a person.

In 2014, researchers found that students who took handwritten notes in a lecture remembered the material better. The idea was that you have to synthesize information as you record it, since few can write long-hand as fast as a person speaks.

I've also wondered if the personalization of the information into your own script, and the physically committing it to a page, doesn't also help.

There also seems to me to be some tie between these findings and the difference between physical words on paper, and digital ones on screen. In my own life, the former make a more lasting impact. They seem more real.

Which is perhaps why I cannot throw out the card and letters sent by my mother (or father, who posts them less frequently), or the random notes left by my fiancé. They're collected in random piles, in baskets and drawers around the apartment, or stuck to the fridge.

They might be deemed clutter, but they are more truly vessels for spirits. And you can call upon them like an incantation, open them and poof: Your love is here.

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metro LIFE

Your essential daily news

Vacuum giant Dyson introduces the Supersonic, a $399 "disruptive" hairdryer

Bautista moves to bowl flips

INTERVIEW

Jays right fielder lends image to cereal boxes

Don't ask Jose Bautista to choose between his favourite cereals.

"Bad first question," he says, when asked if he prefers Golden Grahams or Cinnamon Toast Crunch, the two cereals that will carry his image on boxes for months to come. Fair enough.

The collaboration between the Blue Jays right fielder and General Mills Canada — sparked by Bautista's Instagram posts showing him cradling the boxes — will see the two cereals with his image on shelves across Canada starting this week.

The announcement comes after a years-long cereal industry slump and reports that millennials are turning away from the traditional breakfast food because it requires too much work to eat. We sat down with Bautista, 35, a father of three and noted health nut who nonetheless indulges in sugary cereal after games and on the road, at the Rogers Centre for a brief interview to chat nutrition, fitness, and — yes, cereal.

Jose Bautista, a cereal aficionado himself, has partnered with Golden Grahams and Cinnamon Toast Crunch, two cereals that will carry his image on their boxes for the coming months. BERNARD WEIL/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

As you've gotten older, how has your nutrition changed? Are there certain things you don't eat anymore?

At different times of the year I have different diets and they all have a purpose. At times I take things in and out of the diet for specific purposes, but there's nothing that I ever say, "I'm never eating this again." I like to keep a good rotation. It all depends on if I'm training, if I'm in season, if I'm in a rest and recovery phase right after the season. I think it just adjusts a lot.

How have your workouts evolved as you've aged?

I think you get to understand your body. You get to know what works for you, what helps you be better, what makes you sore, what makes you tight, what gives you pain. You just become more efficient. You manage your body better. Nutrition and workouts are two big parts of it and then recovery and rest is the third big element.

Do you use any fitness apps?

I don't use any fitness apps. I try to keep a journal, keeping track of what I've done. Normally my trainer and my cook keep a log of the food and the workouts. I do use my phone, on the Notes app.

Did you eat these cereals (Golden Grahams and Cinnamon Toast Crunch) growing up?

Growing up, a little bit of Golden Grahams. Cinnamon Toast Crunch wasn't that popular in the Dominican when I was growing up, but Golden Grahams was. We used to get a lot of knockoffs, so the general brand version of Golden Grahams. It was still a luxury item and I was from a middle class family. It's not like every time my mom went to the grocery store she got me one but when she could she would.

Why did you want to do the collaboration (with General Mills Canada)?

We always try to connect with our fans ... We wanted to show them what we were doing on the flights and at hotels. Normally when we're travelling, we try to get comfort food. Cereal is definitely comfort food for me. I posted (photos of cereal) a few times on social media. A couple of the employees (at General Mills Canada) noticed and we just started talking, and today we're here.

If 2015 was the year of the bat flip, what's 2016?

I don't know yet, we'll see. Yet to be determined. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

RAPID Q&A ROUND

Scooter or bicycle?
Scooter right now.

Hotdog or pizza?
That's a tough one but I have to go with pizza.

Cinnamon Toast or Golden Grahams?
That's not fair.

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YOU CAN DO THIS ELECTRICIAN

‘Something different every day’

WHY I LIKE MY JOB

Ross Kostron, 40, Red Seal Electrician / General Manager at Mr. Electric Canada, Regina, SK

My career started on the farm. As a teenager, I often worked with my dad to install agricultural wiring and naturally found myself at Saskatchewan Polytechnic to pursue my electrician certification at the age of 17.

I put in four years of schooling — including 7,200 hours of on-the-job training — to achieve my interprovincial Red Seal journeyman credentials. From there, I was given the opportunity to work for several residential and commercial projects across Canada, including installations and upgrades for franchises like McDonald’s and Tim Horton’s.

I now manage an electrical servicing company in six locations across Canada, where I work closely with hundreds of technicians to meet the demands of the urban construction boom. I am most excited about the opportunities made available from advancing technologies — whether they provide electricians with a unique range of projects, or enhance interactive engagement as they go about their daily routines.

I enjoy what I do mostly because there is something different to experience every day. I’ve been able to meet many different people and make lifelong friends along the way — even working for and meeting sports figures from both the CFL and NHL. Being able to hire staff feels great, too, as I get to help new technicians become part of something bigger while also powering community growth.

THE BASICS: Electrician

$57,510

Median wage of electricians, according to PayScale.com. Some can earn up to **$74,340** as they advance to master electrician or a supervisory position.

+14%

The amount of growth expected in this field over the next 8 years. Provinces with particularly strong prospects include B.C., Manitoba and Ontario

Data for this feature was provided by payscale.com, canadavisa.com, trade-schools.ca, onetonline.org and jobbank.gc.ca

HOW TO START

Enrolling in an apprenticeship program is a typical starting point for an aspiring electrician. Trade schools or vocational colleges offer great programs to achieve provincial certification.

WHERE YOU CAN GO

Potential career opportunities are vast, with many openings for residential, commercial, industrial and power systems technicians. Those who specialize in new technologies and possess extensive knowledge of different types of wiring used for data, voice and video are expected to be in greatest demand.

NEXT CAREER STEP

An experienced professional in this trade can aspire to higher-paying supervisory roles. Some electricians opt to advance their careers — and their salaries — by pursuing a Master Electrician certificate, launching their own contracting business or by specializing in the industrial sector as a marine, mine or gas plant technician.

Plan now so you can enjoy life later

RETIREMENT

Know how much you need before you live hand to mouth

Gail Vaz-Oxlade
For Metro Canada

Every time I see an article proclaiming that I’m going to need a b’zillion bucks to retire I want to throw up in my mouth. I’m so sick of the arbitrary numbers tossed around by experts and their calculators.

With a target that feels impossible to attain is it any wonder that people give up and say, “Hey, I can save $1,200 this year and that’s not gonna do squat for me, so I’m heading to Puerto Plata!”

The next time you see one of those headlines, ask yourself this question: How can they know how much I’m going to need if they don’t know how much I’m spending.

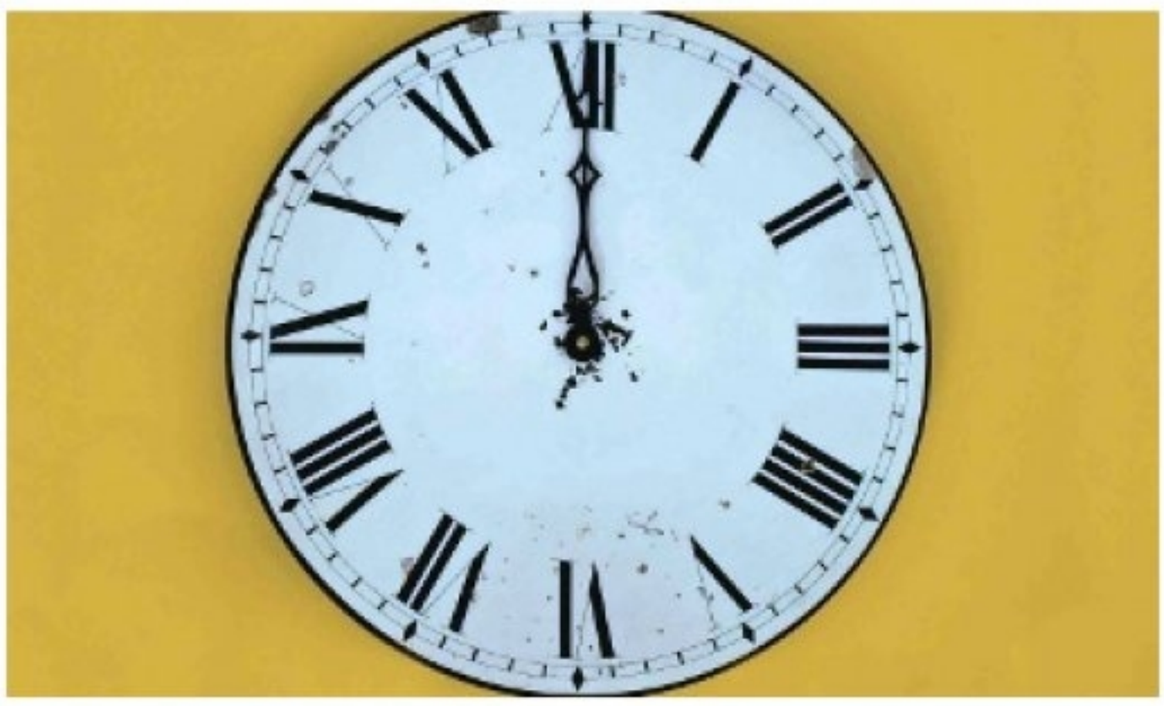
See, that’s the thing.

If you’re spending gobs and gobs of money on all kinds of crap, you may very well need a b’zillion bucks.

But only you know how much money you’re spending — and how much money you’ll probably need — to maintain your standard of living once you hang up your hammer.

That DOES NOT mean ignoring the whole saving for the future thing.

It does mean doing some work so you can see what you’ll likely need as a nest egg so that when the future becomes the present you have a little sumthin’ sumthin’ socked away to buy soup.



You can’t turn back time: By making excuses for not saving for retirement in your 20s, you’ll have to put away **three times as much** in your forties. ISTOCK

For those who have never seen the point in saving, do something for me: Close your eyes.

Now imagine you’re 40 years older. (You have someone in your life who is 40 years older, so imagine your life looks a little like their life looks.) Where are you living? What are you doing for fun? What are you eating? How are you paying for it?

If you’re counting on government benefits, know that the average pay out for both the Canada Pension Plan and Old Age Security combined is about $12,000 a year. That’s $1,000 a month. Can’t imagine making do on $1,000 a month? Then it’s time to do a little saving, don’tcha think?

For those who know they should be saving and just need to figure out how much, calculate how much you’re currently spending and then multiply that by 25.

So if your net (after tax) expenses come to $32,000 a year, everything in, aiming to have about $800,000 is a good place to start.

Know that the longer you wait to get started, the more you’re going to have to take away from today’s spending to make sure you have enough for tomorrow.

Start socking away six per cent of your income in your 20s and you’ll be fine sticking with that all the way through to the end.

Wait until you’re in your 30s to start saving, and with less time for compounding, you’ll have to take 10 per cent out of your spending today so you can buy soup and a sammie at 66.

Make excuses for not saving until you’re in your 40s and you’ll have to save three times as much as you would have if you started in your twenties.

Ouch! Don’t do that!

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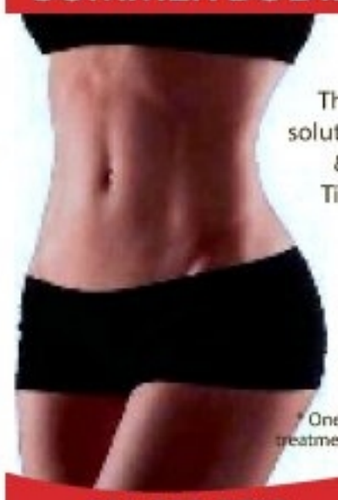

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She stands by her superhero

CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR

Talking to the love interest of key Avenger

Richard Crouse
For Metro Canada

Canadian Emily VanCamp plays Sharon Carter, the love interest of Chris Evans, a.k.a. Captain America. CHRIS SO/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

There's trouble in Avengers Land.

Like the recent Batman v. Superman: Dawn of Justice, which saw the Caped Crusader and the Man of Steel go head-to-head in a showdown over how best to police the world, Captain America: Civil War sees the Avengers go mano e' mano e' mano e' mano e' mano (there's a lot of them) in an effort to settle their differences.

As anyone who has seen the Avengers movies knows, the superhero team have caused havoc all over the world, blowing things up dropping buildings on people, all in the name of law and order. It's been a wild ride but after a rescue mission leaves 11 innocent people dead the United Nations decides it's time to rein them in.

The proposed restrictions divide the group. Tony 'Iron Man' Stark (Robert Downey Jr.) wants more oversight while Captain America (Chris Evans) refuses to compromise.

Watching from the sidelines is Sharon Carter, ex-S.H.I.E.L.D field agent and love interest of Captain America. Played by Port Perry, Ont., native Emily VanCamp, the character is firmly onside with her superhero suitor.

"It's an interesting debate," she says, "because there is no real right or wrong at any given moment. It is difficult to take sides. I know where my character stands. I understand that. Because I play her, I get it but at the same time, as Emily, I really do feel it would make much more sense to be on Iron Man's side. That's what makes it interesting. You think you're going to go into it with a very clear vision of whose side you're on but you don't leave feeling that way."

With two Captain America films under her belt VanCamp is part of the Marvel Universe. That means she has a whole new group of fans with ideas about her character.

"The fans are incredibly invested," she says. "There are a lot of people with very specific ideas of who they want to see with Steve (aka. Captain America) and sometimes Sharon is not that person. I certainly hear about that. You have to admire how invested people are, whether they're on your side or not. You have to respect it. I just have to do the best job I can do as Sharon and create the best version of the character and not take some of it personally. You hope, for the most part, the fans are happy."

The 29-year-old actress began performing in dance class when she was just three years old.

"There were a lot of us in my family so it was a way to tire us out," she laughs. "It was an outlet to run around which then turned into more serious dance training."

Those lessons came in handy while shooting one of Civil War's wild fight scenes.

"Dancing teaches you to be connected with your body," she says.

"We had to shoot the scene in Civil War where Sharon and Black Widow take on Bucky, quite fast. We didn't practice it. They were running behind that day and they shot the reaction to getting slammed on the table the next morning but all of the fight stuff was in an hour-and-a-half. I don't think I would have been able to do that unless I had some formal training in dance."

MOVIE RATINGS by Richard Crouse

Captain America: Civil War	★★★★
The Meddler	★★★
The Rainbow Kid	★★★

HOW RATING WORKS	
★★★★	SEE IT
★★★	WORTHWHILE
★★	UP TO YOU
★	SKIP IT

FESTIVAL

Our Land Beautiful takes top doc prize

Koneline: our land beautiful is a sweeping look at life on the Tahltan First Nation in northern B.C. CONTRIBUTED

A film documenting the Tahltan First Nation in remote northwestern British Columbia took home one of the top honours at the HotDocs Awards on Friday night.

Koneline: our land beautiful received the best Canadian feature documentary award and a $10,000 cash prize at a ceremony in Toronto.

The Norwegian film Brothers, which follows two brothers from childhood to their teens, was named best international feature.

Special jury prizes were awarded to The Prison in Twelve Landscapes for Canadian feature documentary, and God Knows Where I Am for international feature documentary. Each film was awarded a $5,000 cash prize.

Directors Sebastien Rist and Aude Leroux-Levesque (Living with Giants) were named recipients of the emerging Canadian filmmaker award and a $3,000 cash prize. The jury acknowledged Ali Kazimi's Random Acts of Legacy with an honourable mention.

The emerging international filmmaker award was presented to director Mike Day for The Islands and the Whales.

Best mid-length documentary was presented to Norway's Dugma: The Button, with an honourable mention for La Laguna.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

JOHANNA SCHNELLER WHAT I'M WATCHING

A rare sight: 70-year-old skin

THE SHOW: Grace and Frankie, Season 2, Episode 4 (Netflix)
THE MOMENT: The cop stop

In **Grace and Frankie Season 2** we see two skilled funnywomen create 70-something mayhem. CONTRIBUTED

Hippie Frankie (Lily Tomlin) is driving country-club Grace (Jane Fonda) to spy on Grace's old flame Phil (Sam Elliott). Grace swigs martinis from a thermos. A cop pulls them over.

"How are you today, ma'am?" the cop asks.

"I know my civil rights, that's how I am," Frankie growls.

"Good afternoon, officer," Grace chirps.

"Be informed, I'm filming you," Frankie says, holding up her phone. The cop gently turns it around. "Now you're filming me," he says. "Your license has been expired for three years."

"Oh, it expires?" Frankie asks innocently. Grace slugs from the thermos. "I'll get it fixed," Frankie says, closing her window.

"Ma'am, you can't drive," the cop sputters. Frankie stares at him. The window closes.

Thank goodness for Season Twos. Last season, this series was preoccupied with justifying why its mismatched leads lived together. Now the fun begins: We get to watch as two skilled funnywomen stop bickering, team up, and exploit their differences to create 70-something mayhem.

Show creator Marta Kauffman (Friends) is also doing a deeper dive, using comedy to explore intriguing later-life issues: Frankie's full-grown son announces he wants to meet his birth mother. Grace is conflicted about sleeping with Phil because he's married, but his wife has Alzheimer's.

Spoiler alert: In episode 10, the action moves smoothly from funny — Phil confesses to Grace that he took the AARP discount on their hotel room — to something rarely seen, a sex scene that, though tasteful, does not flinch from showing 70-year-old skin. These golden girls are grown-ups.

mar SPORTS

"The impossible has happened!": Mets TV guy Gary Cohen when nearly-43-year-old pitcher Bartolo Colon hit his first-career home run Saturday

Lineups falling short

RAPTORS
TORONTO LEADS 2-1

Injuries to Valanciunas, Whiteside lead to small ball

The NBA has been moving toward some kind of positionless game, where five guys of basically the same height and skillset play anywhere on the floor, guard anyone on the other team, play a flowing, up-tempo style with little regard to the traditional guards, forwards and centres.

Consider the Toronto Raptors-Miami Heat Eastern Conference semifinal a test case for the coming era.

With two seven-foot centres hobbled by varying degrees of injury, a mix-and-match "small ball" series is likely to evolve.

"Some guys are going to have to play out of position, but you've got to be a basketball player, you can't have a number," Toronto's DeMarre Carroll said Sunday.

The Raptors already have ruled Jonas Valanciunas out of the rest of the series because of a sprained right ankle suffered Saturday night; Miami is listing centre Hassan Whiteside as day-to-day with a sprained medial collateral ligament in his right knee.

And while his leg was encased in a light cast Sunday, him playing seems far-fetched at this point.

It should reduce Monday's Game 4 of the best-of-seven series —Toronto leads 2-1 — to a battle of small lineups.

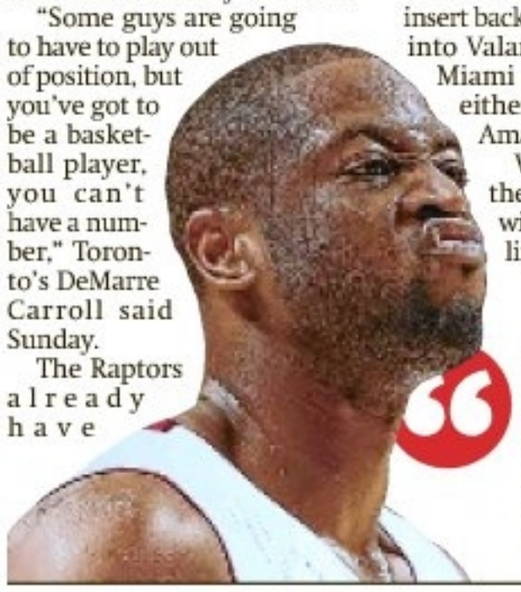
"We can play faster, play with some more pace (and) cause some confusion versus their (defensive) switches ... that's something we can do," Raptors coach Dwane Casey said. "The good outweighs the bad for us."

Neither Casey nor Miami coach Erik Spoelstra would tip his hand about what the lineups would look like Monday without each starting centre. The logical move would be for Toronto to insert backup Bismack Biyombo into Valanciunas's place and Miami could counter with either Udonis Haslem or Amar'e Stoudemire.

Whatever happens, the trickle down effect will create some unique lineups.

Toronto is at least used to playing without Valanciunas, who missed a quarter of the regular season with two hand injuries. The Raptors went 16-6 with him out of the lineup.

Raptors centre Jonas Valanciunas, left, has been ruled out for the remainder of the conference semifinals while **Hassan Whiteside of the Heat** is day-to-day. RICK MADONIK/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



If anybody thinks I'm being disrespectful to a country, then they don't know who Dwyane Wade is.

Dwyane Wade took some heat for his pre-game shooting routine, which continued through the beginning of O Canada on Saturday

"I have shown that I can guard small," Biyombo said. "We switch a lot when I'm on the floor, one through five. So there's nothing that will surprise me but as a team we have to find a way to keep them under 100 points.

"That has been the key for us to winning a playoff game."

Valanciunas had been playing some of the best basketball of his career in the Heat series, averaging 18.3 points per game on 65 per cent shooting from the field and 12.7 rebounds.

"I do know Jonas was getting better every game at doing something, whether playing with confidence, screening properly, defending his position, doing a better job in the pick and roll defensive schemes; he was growing and it's unfortunate because I thought (Saturday) was going to be one of his best performances," Casey said.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Cavaliers perfect through 2 rounds

Cleveland's Big Three is on quite a roll.

Two playoff series, two sweeps.

Now, the Cavaliers get to rest up for the Eastern Conference final.

Kevin Love scored 27 points, LeBron James knocked down a huge shot with 39.2 seconds to go, and Kyrie Irving turned in another dazzling performance to lead Cleveland past the Atlanta Hawks 100-99 on Sunday.

The Cavaliers finished off the second-round series with four straight wins, just as they did in the opening round against Detroit.

"This is more than I dreamed of," Irving said. "It's what I genuinely enjoy about basketball, playing with great guys."

James and Irving finished with 21 points apiece. James also doled out nine assists, while Irving had eight.

Dennis Schroder led the Hawks with 21 points.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

GAME 4 In Atlanta

100	99

Thunder forward Kevin Durant attempts a shot against Tim Duncan of the Spurs on Sunday in Oklahoma City.

GARRETT ELLWOOD/NBAE VIA GETTY IMAGES

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Durant pulls Thunder even with Spurs

Kevin Durant matched his career playoff high with 41 points and the Oklahoma City Thunder beat the San Antonio Spurs 111-97 on Sunday night to tie the Western Conference semifinal series 2-2.

Durant scored 29 points on 10-for-13 shooting in the second half.

Russell Westbrook finished with 14 points and 15 assists, Dion Waiters added 17 points, and Steven Adams had 16 points and 11 rebounds for Oklahoma City. The Thunder shot 50.6 per cent overall and 57 per cent in the second half to avoid going back to San Antonio down 3-1 for Game 5 on Tuesday night.

GAME 4 In Oklahoma

111	97

Tony Parker led San Antonio with 22 points, Kawhi Leonard had 21, and LaMarcus Aldridge 20.

San Antonio led by 11 early in the second quarter, but the Thunder rallied and took a 45-44 lead on a three-pointer by Durant with 1:47 left in the first half.

The Spurs closed the quarter on a 9-0 run, with all the points coming from Leonard and Aldridge, to take a 53-45 lead at the break. Durant and Westbrook were a combined 6-for-21 from the field in the first half.

Boris Diaw's three-pointer from the corner in the closing seconds of the third quarter gave the Spurs an 81-77 lead heading into the fourth.

Durant took over early in the final quarter. His back-to-back threes gave the Thunder a 93-87 lead. Enes Kanter's fast-break dunk pushed the lead to 100-93.

San Antonio hung tough, but a baseline floater, a layup and a corner three by Durant made it 108-97.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

It was (not) all a dream

PREMIER LEAGUE

Leicester City goes from laughingstock to limousines

A growing number of broken beer bottles crunched beneath their feet as thousands of Leicester supporters continued singing past midnight on the city's High Street on Sunday.

"Champions of England," the chant went, "we know what we are."

Few around the world will not know. Singing it perhaps reminds Leicester fans that the past year is real and not some improbable sporting fantasy.

It was little surprise that Leicester Royal Infirmary reported twice the usual number of patients being admitted during the Saturday night revelry, mostly for minor injuries or alcohol-related incidents.

People were urged to avoid seeking medical attention unless it was urgent, with the hospital tweeting that it is "feeling the effect of the (Leicester) game yesterday. If you don't need to come to A&E please don't."

Sunday marked Leicester's seventh day as one of the unlikeliest champions of England since the country's leagues were established in the 19th century.

The Premier League trophy was presented Saturday after Leicester overwhelmed Everton in a 3-1 win with a display that showed they are taking the final two games of the campaign seriously.

"It's unbelievable — you've seen the team spirit that we've got," said top-scorer Jamie Vardy, whose double on Saturday took his tally to 24 for the season.

"When training and matches are finished, we'll all go out and have food together, we're always in touch with each other. That just shows how much as a unit we all are as a team and it shows in our performances week in, week out."

But even Leicester manager Claudio Ranieri publicly accepts that this season could well be a one-off.

Rival managers are wondering if underdogs winning the league will become the new norm.

"Maybe a team that nobody expects now will come next season and surprise everyone," Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger said. "All the English clubs have the money to buy now.... So in a few years the potential in England will be much more shared than everywhere else and you can get more surprises."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Manager Claudio Ranieri lifts the Premier League trophy on Saturday. MICHAEL REGAN/GETTY IMAGES

"It is a scandal how we all are together. We literally are like brothers.

Leicester's Jamie Vardy who scored two in a 3-1 win over Everton Saturday.

ON SUNDAY

Pellegrini limping to finish

Manuel Pellegrini's long goodbye at Manchester City is turning sour.

At the end of a week in which the team surrendered in the Champions League semi-finals, City was held 2-2 by Arsenal in the Premier League to throw into doubt its return to Europe's elite competition next season.

Manuel Pellegrini GETTY IMAGES

A top-four finish is no longer in City's hands with a week left.

Even more galling, its great rival — Manchester United — is the team that could grab City's Champions League qualification berth. Fourth-place City is two points clear of United, which has two games left — against West Ham and Bournemouth — to City's one.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NHL PLAYOFFS

Isles outclassed by Bolts in series finale

Victor Hedman and Ben Bishop lifted the Tampa Bay Lightning into the Eastern Conference final for the second straight year.

Hedman scored twice and Bishop stopped 28 shots Sunday, helping the defending conference champions beat the New York Islanders 4-0 and end their second-round playoff series in five games.

The Lightning advanced by winning four straight after dropping the series opener at home. They also eliminated Detroit in five games in the opening round, making them 2-0 in close-out situations this post-season.

GAME 5 In Tampa

4	0

"Brutal. It's hard to believe it's over," Isles captain John Tavares said. "You put a lot into this and we didn't accomplish what we set out to do." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MLB

Relievers, bats fail Jays starter Estrada

The Toronto Blue Jays wasted another strong start for Marco Estrada. The right-hander was hurt by poor run support — again.

Estrada pitched seven innings of one-run ball in Toronto's 4-2 loss to the Los Angeles Dodgers on Sunday.

Howie Kendrick hit a tie-breaking RBI single in the eighth inning for Los Angeles.

The late rally spoiled another strong outing by Estrada, who held the Dodgers hitless through five innings but remained winless in five outings. He allowed three hits, struck out eight and walked two.

"He did a hell of a job," Blue Jays manager John Gibbons said.

Toronto has scored six runs for Estrada over the course of his winless stretch.

Estrada's past three starts have come at home, where Toronto has failed to score more than two runs in five of its past 10 games. It is 0-5 in those contests.

Blue Jays relievers have a major league-worst 10 losses this season. Toronto has lost two straight after winning the previous four. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IN BRIEF

Nats Harper walked 6 times
The Chicago Cubs walked Washington star Bryce Harper a record-tying six times, then beat the Nationals 4-3 when Javier Baez homered in the 13th inning Sunday for a four-game sweep.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Boucher bolts for Ottawa
Guy Boucher is the new head coach of the Ottawa Senators.

The 44-year-old Boucher was announced as the 12th head coach in Senators franchise history on Sunday, replacing Dave Cameron, who was fired on April 12. Boucher has spent parts of the last three seasons as the head coach of SC Bern of the National League A in Switzerland, posting a 44-29-5 record.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

Barça in La Liga driver's seat
Barcelona routed city rival Espanyol 5-0 on Sunday to increase its lead in the Spanish league going into next weekend's final round of matches, when another win will secure the Catalan club its second consecutive title.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Villa victimizes United
David Villa scored his seventh goal in 10 games, Khiry Shelton added another and New York City FC beat D.C. United 2-0 Sunday night.

Villa is tied with Portland's Fanendo Adi and San Jose's Chris Wondolowski for the MLS scoring lead.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Djokovic masters Murray
Novak Djokovic beat Andy Murray 6-2, 3-6, 6-3 in the Madrid Open final on Sunday to win a record 29th career Masters title.

The top-ranked Djokovic defeated the second-ranked Murray 6-2, 3-6, 6-3 in the Madrid Open final on Sunday, 10 years after their rivalry started in the round of 16 of the tournament in Spain. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Hahn hangs on in Charlotte
James Hahn beat Roberto Castro with a par on the first hole of a sudden-death playoff Sunday in the Wells Fargo Championship to snap a three-month slump.

It is the second career PGA Tour title Hahn, who hadn't shot in the 60s since February.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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RECIPE Niçoise Sandwich

PHOTO: MAYA VISNYEI

Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Canada

Kick off the week with a picnic-style sandwich. Then invite some people over because it makes a lot!

Ready in
Ready in: 1 hour
Serves: 6 to 8

Ingredients
- 1 rustic loaf of bread
- 2 x 7 oz cans of tuna
- 3 hard boiled eggs
- 1/4 English cucumber, sliced
- handful fresh basil
- 3 Tbsp olive oil
- 2 Tbsp white wine vinegar
- 1 Tbsp dijon mustard
- 1 or 2 Tbsp black olive tapenade

Directions

1. Whisk together oil, vinegar and mustard until you have a smooth dressing. Drain your tuna well and place it in a bowl. Add 2 tablespoons of the dressing to the tuna and mash it up with a fork and mix well. Toss the sliced cucumber in the remaining tablespoon of dressing and give it a stir.

2. Cut the loaf of bread horizontally and use your fingers to pinch out a good bit (about a cup) of the soft bread inside. Spread a thin layer of tapenade on piece of bread. Place a layer of basil leaves, followed by a layer of sliced egg. Now use a spoon to mound the tuna next. Follow with a layer of sliced cucumber.

3. Place the top of the bread and press down gently. Wrap the whole sandwich in plastic. Put it on a plate and weigh it down with something. Put the whole works in the fridge for at least an hour or over night so the flavours combine and the sandwich is easier to slice.

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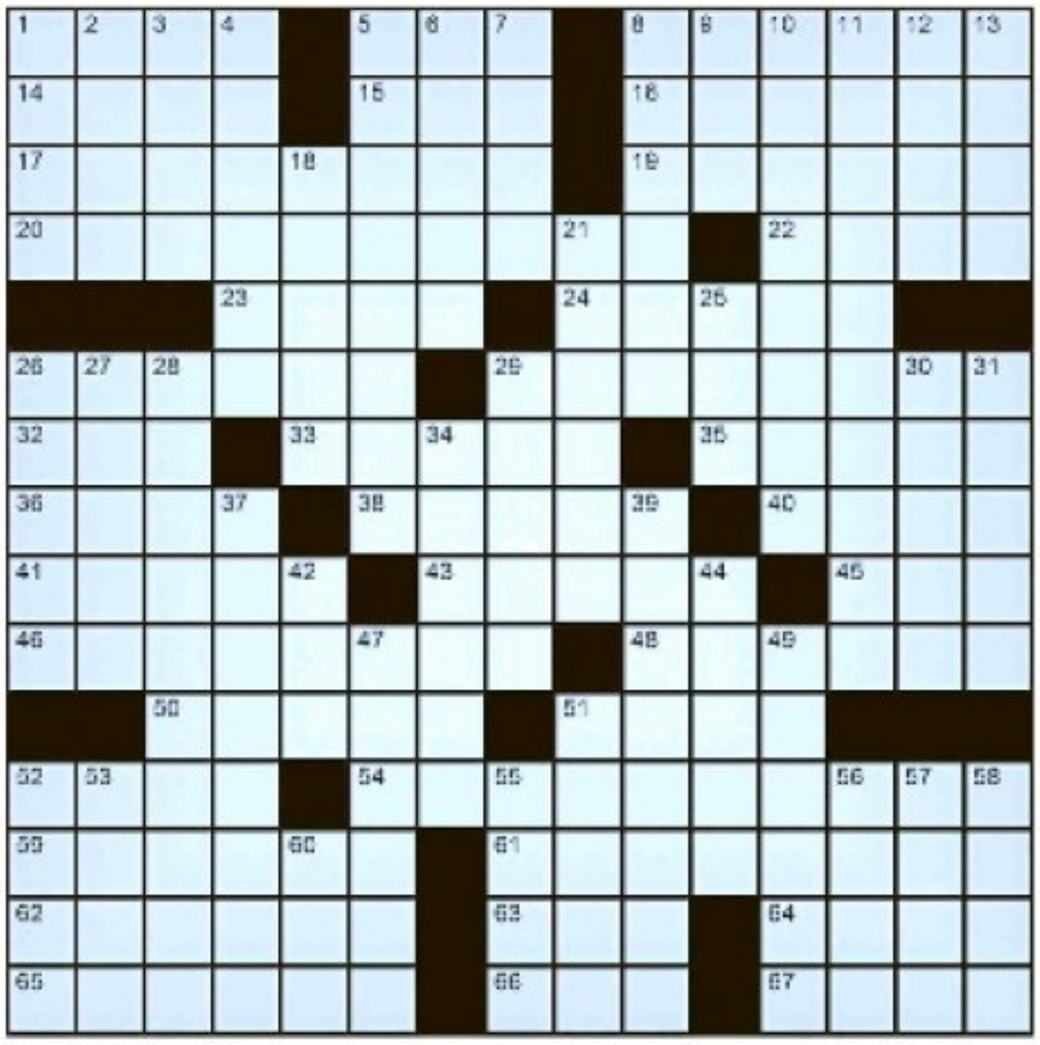
CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



ACROSS
1. "Good Times" disco group
5. Mr. Blanc
8. Said walkin' instead of walking
14. Roman moon goddess
15. Hubbub
16. Song of dawn
17. __ reaction
19. Polishes
20. Canadian author of 1995 novel The Jade Peony: 2 wds.
22. E-J link
23. "Not on __!" = "No way!"
24. Canadian comedian Mr. Mandel
26. Clandestine
29. Noble crustacean: 2 wds.
32. Type of submachine gun
33. __ Marner (1861 novel)
35. Canadian singer/songwriter Ms. McNeil
36. Snaky spots
38. Spy for Moses
40. Separate, as laundry
41. __ Arden (1864 poem by Alfred, Lord Tennyson)
43. Cam __ (Hockey great born in Comox, BC)
45. Mesh
46. Localized
48. "Psst!" from above: 2 wds.
50. Fancy neckwear
51. "When We __ Young" by Adele
52. Big amount
54. Sad movie
59. Chant
61. Like really humid summer weather: 2 wds.
62. Really loud Zzzz-er
63. Enunciate
64. "Would __ to You?" by Eurythmics
65. Feels
66. Approves [abbr.]
67. Singer, Mama __ Elliot (b.1941 - d.1974)

DOWN
1. Cat's clutcher
2. Retro toy, __ Hoop
3. Toward the centre
4. __ salad
5. Moncton's gravity attraction, __ Hill
6. Proclamation
7. Ness Monster's need
8. Lax: 2 wds.
9. "I __ Ya Papi" by Jennifer Lopez
10. __, __ (Canadian punk rocker Bif Naked's new memoir)
11. Kenny Loggins tune in Tom Cruise movie "Top Gun" (1986): 2 wds.
12. Global News anchor who is a 3x Olympian, Rosey __
13. Mr. Arnaz of "I Love Lucy"
18. Choir outfits
21. "That's understandable now." 3 wds.
25. One of ABC's "The View" co-hosts ...her initials-sharers
26. "Fantastic!"
27. www mag
28. Manager of #39-Down when the team won the World Series in 1992 and 1993: 2 wds.
29. Clark Kent, originally, on planet Krypton
30. Broadcaster
31. Music's Ms. Midler
34. Woolly
37. Snip-snip-snippers
39. As per #28-Down... Toronto __ __
42. Ad __ committee
44. WWI: Canada's coming of age on the world stage
47. Diarists
49. Brave
51. Make mayhem, with Havoc
52. "__ Congeniality" (2000)
53. Ms. Hathaway
55. Dog, with Lhasa
56. British band, __ Shaker
57. Christian denomination, e.g.
58. Whiskey grains
60. Wedding notice word

IT'S ALL IN THE STARS Your daily horoscope by Francis Drake

Aries March 21 - April 20
Rather than initiate new financial matters, finish what is started. If you're looking for a job, go back to where you previously applied or perhaps where you worked before.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
Ex-partners and old friends are back in the picture. Consider this an opportunity for closure or to reach a better understanding about old issues.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
It is frustrating right now, because your ruler, Mercury, is retrograde, and this makes you error-prone, late to meetings and events, plus subject to misplaced items and transportation delays. Yikes!

Cancer June 22 - July 23
Old friends are back on the scene now. This could be heartwarming, because it is a wonderful thing to have history with others. You can't buy this.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
This is an excellent time to wrap up old business with parents, bosses and VIPs. However, it's a poor time to initiate anything new. Keep this in mind if you want a successful outcome.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Travel plans will be delayed. However, this is an excellent time to finish up school papers and manuscripts. Focus on what you were doing in the past.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
This is a great time to wrap up loose ends with inheritances, taxes, debt and anything having to do with shared property. You will be surprised by how quickly things will come together.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Ex-partners and old friends are coming out of the woodwork! Like what's with that? Well, Mercury is retrograde directly opposite your sign, which triggers this looping-to-the-past phenomena.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Your efficiency on the job has suffered lately, which is a bummer. What is particularly exasperating is that these errors are just so silly!

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Old flames from the past might contact you now. Sometimes this is exciting; sometimes it's not exciting at all, it's horrific.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
This is a good time to wrap up old projects and finish renovations and repairs. This especially applies to family businesses.

Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
Life is frustrating now because of transportation delays, car problems, late mail deliveries and lost paperwork. Just cope as best you can, because this will be over soon.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9

3				4				6
	8						9	
			7		8			
		4	8		7	1		
9				3				2
		5	9		2	3		
			1		5			
	1						3	
7				6				4

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3	4	1	7	5	6	2	8	9
7	6	9	3	2	8	4	1	5
8	5	2	1	4	9	7	3	6
4	1	7	2	6	5	8	9	3
2	8	6	9	3	4	5	7	1
9	3	5	8	7	1	6	2	4
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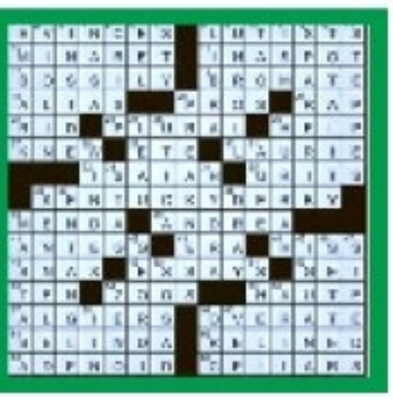
1	7	4	6	8	3	9	5	2



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